

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Energy Education Team
Minutes of the Meeting
July 20, 2010

Present: Britton (chair), Williams, Nash, Walton (staff), Spurlock

The meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes from the May 25, 2010 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Walton reported that at the June 23, 2010 meeting the sustainability committee recommended that the Town re-apply for the EPA's Climate Showcase Communities grant. Like last year's application, the Town will be seeking funds to start a solar-powered electric car sharing program located in Storrs Center. The sustainability committee will develop a "Sustainability Considerations for School Siting Matrix" in order to provide guidance for the school building committee should they start identifying locations for new school structures.

Williams gave a 20by2010 Clean Energy Google Group report. She circulated an updated "Home Energy Resource Sheet." Of special interest are low-interest loans that are now available through the Home Energy Solutions program. Williams will create a press release about the loans.

Three of the Mansfield energy challenge households have turned in their electrical information. A preliminary comparison was made of their energy reductions and Walton shared some of the creative ways households set about doing so. Walton will contact the remaining households to turn in their energy information so that at the next meeting, the winning households can be selected.

Spurlock reported that at the July 10 Storrs Farmers Market 11 households signed up for CleanEnergyOptions. Loxsom, Britton, Millius, Hoyle and Spurlock attended three of the farmer's markets in June and July and got a total of 12 sign-ups. Spurlock stated that Jim Iacovelli, from Community Energy, was at the July 10 market. His marketing strategy and sign-up form is simple and straight forward. Walton has asked for a copy of the sign-up form. Iacovelli will attend the farmer's market on August 21 and the Know Your Town Fair on September 11, 2010. It was suggested that story time at the library is a good venue for getting clean energy sign-ups. Jim will be invited to attend an upcoming energy education meeting to share his approach. With the 12 sign-ups, the Town will have earned 500 points. Walton will contact the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund to start the bid process for the 4 additional kilowatts on EO Smith's roof. To date, 7.6% of (424) Mansfield ratepayers are signed up for CleanEnergyOptions. There was discussion about having a simple flow chart that illustrates the difference between energy suppliers and generators. Walton will contact Roger Smith – he may have a

chart.

Walton reported that the Department of Energy awarded nearly \$4.2 million to the Neighbor to Neighbor energy challenge grant, which should begin in the fall of 2010. Mansfield is one of 14 towns that will benefit from this grant. Walton distributed the neighbor to neighbor talking points. The grant focuses on using community-based social marketing strategies to reduce energy consumption.

Nash reported that he spoke to Ed Austin, chair of the Juniper Hill Village board of directors. Sunlight Solar will begin installation of a 50 kilowatt photovoltaic system on Juniper Hill Village's roof in the fall. While there is incentive money available, Nash will speak to the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation about solar thermal systems.

Britton reported that the solar lease program has restarted for owner-occupied residential buildings. The program is resuming after tabulating the original funds. There is enough money left to install photovoltaic systems on about 100 more homes; however, the incentive is not as good as the first round of the solar lease program.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2010. Wrap-up of the Mansfield energy challenge will be on the August meeting agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk